



NEWS RELEASE

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ORGANIZATIONS HONOR 2006 ALABAMA MANUFACTURERS OF THE YEAR

MONTGOMERY – April 26, 2006 – The Alabama Technology Network, the Business Council of Alabama and the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama today presented three Alabama manufacturing companies with the prestigious Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards at the RSA Alabama Activity Center in Montgomery.

The Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards program is an annual recognition of Alabama manufacturing enterprises that exhibit excellence in leadership, performance, profitability and work force relations. The Manufacturer of the Year awards are presented in three size categories to ensure the fair recognition of all applicants regardless of the size of their work force. Winning manufacturers are selected by an independent panel of judges who look for demonstrations of superior performance in the areas of customer focus, employee commitment, operational excellence, continuous improvement, profitable growth and investment in training and retraining.

This year's event, which marks the seventh consecutive Alabama Manufacturer of the Year awards presentation, featured a keynote address by John Engler, president and chief executive officer of the National Association of Manufacturers and former governor of Michigan.

"This great annual program gives us an opportunity to recognize and thank Alabama's manufacturing community for its incredibly important contributions to our economy and to our quality of life," said BCA President and Chief Executive Officer William J. Canary.

"Last year alone, Alabama manufacturers produced a total real output of nearly \$25 billion and directly employed more than 294,000 Alabamians, which is 15.2 percent of the state's total nonagricultural employment. The caliber of this year's award winners makes it clear that Alabama manufacturers are meeting the demands of today's dynamic, global economy and posting stellar performances in spite of the challenges they face. The BCA is proud to represent these hard-working, high-performing companies. We are honored to join with our partners at ATN to bring these great manufacturers' accomplishments to light with the presentation of these well-deserved awards."

The Business Council of Alabama is a statewide business association representing the interests and concerns of nearly 5,000 Alabama businesses and industries that employ approximately 750,000 Alabamians. Manufacturers comprise the largest single segment of

BCA's membership. BCA is Alabama's exclusive representative to the National Association of Manufacturers' National Industrial Council.

The Alabama Technology Network is a division of the Alabama College System, partnering with the University of Alabama System, Auburn University and the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama. The network operates 14 centers throughout the state to deliver training and technologies to existing industries with the goal of enhancing the global competitiveness of Alabama manufacturers. ATN is an affiliate of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST-MEP).

"For the 7th consecutive year, ATN is proud to join BCA in recognizing manufacturing excellence in Alabama," said ATN President Mike Bailey. "Throughout the year, we work with hundreds of manufacturers and understand many of their challenges and struggles. Our winners tonight are providing manufacturing leadership to their industry, their communities, and their employees and demonstrate that Alabama manufacturers are world-class performers."

The 2006 Alabama Manufacturers of the Year are:

- Large Manufacturer of the Year (400 or more employees): **Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC, Lincoln, Alabama**
- Medium Manufacturer of the Year (100-399 employees): **Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Troy, Alabama**
- Small Manufacturer of the Year (1-99 employees): **Polyamide High Performance, Inc., Scottsboro, Alabama**

Detailed descriptions of the winning manufacturers follow in separate fact sheets.

In addition to the Alabama Manufacturer of the Year awards, the Alabama Development Office presented its annual Economic Development Achievement Award during today's ceremony and the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama presented Community Leadership Awards to three Alabama manufacturers.

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce received the 2006 Economic Development Achievement Award in recognition of its economic development efforts in attracting new and expanding industries in 2005.

The *Manufacturers Make A Difference* Community Leadership Awards were presented to **Degussa Corporation**, Mobile; **Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama**, Huntsville; and **V.I. Prewett & Son, Inc.**, Ft. Payne. These manufacturers exemplify the ideals of corporate citizenship and have contributed to the social and economic development of the communities in which they work.



A Celebration of Manufacturing Excellence



